THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED). (a) The Government has recently decided to permit establishment of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) by the private|joint sector or State Governments.

(b) and (c) Two proposals have been received from the private sector for setting up Export Processing Zones at Bombay and Sachin, Dist. Surat (Gujarat).

(d) Policy, procedures and benefits in respect of units in EPZs would also apply in the case of EPZs developed by private|joint sector or State Governments. EPZ promoters would have to fulfil the prescribed requirements of security as well as relevant customs laws and procedures, bear this custom bonding charges, comply with local industrial, labour or other laws and rules|regulations in regard to area planning.

Eztension of credit to Russia importers

35. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has decided to extend 180 days credit to all importers, wishing to buy goods, from India;

(b) whether this is likely to help in the repayment of Rs. 36,000 crore owned by India to Russia as the legacy of the Rupee-Rouble Trade Agreement and if so, to what extent;

(c) whether Russia also propose to auction their Rupee reserve; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Russian side conveyed to us during the visit of Mr. Y. F. Yarov, Dy. Prime Minister of Russia (3—7 June, 1994) hat the Russian Government was propsoing to offer the facility of 180 days deferred payment to importers purchasing goods in rupees from India against debt repayment funds. However, the poposal has not yet been formally announced.

(c) and (d) The Russian Government has conveyed that they are considering the idea of allocating a part of the rupees available under the repayment account to importers through auctions. The proposal is, however, at the preliminary stage and would involve using only a part of the annual repayment funds.

Growth rate of exports

36. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of Indian Exports during April-May, 1994 was 9.66 per cent as compared to the growth rate of 28 per cent during the same months in the year 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what immediate remedial measures Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In US $ terms, exports during April-May, 1994 are estimated at $ 3793 million as against US $ 3459 million during April-May, 1993, signifying a growth of 9.66 percent. Exports during April-May, 1993-94 had registered a growth of 30 percent over the corresponding period of previous year, the reasons for the modest export growth are withdawal of IPRS affecting engineering ex-